GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:462
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
SARAS AIRCRAFT .
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saras aircraft has made its maiden flight successfully in the recent past ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard ; and

(c) the time by which the Saras project is likely to be completed and expenditure to be incurred therein ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a)&(b): Yes sir. The first prototype (PT-I) of SARAS made the maiden test flight on 29th May, 2004. The maiden flight was of 23 minutes duration. SARAS reached a maximum altitude of 7800 ft. and a maximum speed of 145 knots (269 km/hr) during this maiden flight.

(c) : The Saras project was sanctioned by the Government in September, 1999, at an initial cost of Rs. 131.38 crore, which was later on revised to Rs. 157.59 crore.

The first prototype is undergoing flight-tests and the second prototype is expected to fly in about an year's time. For the completion of SARAS project, about 500 hrs of flight-testing has been planned to obtain certification from the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). This may take about 24-30 months time from now on.